

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Mount Pleasant, Updated Nomination

other names/site number Mount Pleasant Farm, Mount Pleasant Plantation; VDHR File No.: 007-0024

2. Location

street & number 879 Middle River Road not for publication N/A

city or town Staunton vicinity N/A

state VA code VA county Augusta code 790 zip code 24401

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets statewide X locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments. )

Signature of certifying official

Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments. )

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)  
(see continuation sheets for updated text)

=====

## 8. Statement of Significance – *change to period of significance and narrative*

=====

**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☒ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

MILITARY

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance** circa 1760 -1850 (earlier construction date identified)

**Significant Dates** circa 1760; 1781; circa 1850

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) George Moffett

**Cultural Affiliation** N/A

**Architect/Builder** unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)  
(see continuation sheets for updated text)

=====

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☒ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

### Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office  
☐ Other State agency  
☐ Federal agency  
☐ Local government  
☐ University  
☐ Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

### 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 316.21 acres

**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
1 <u>                    </u>	2 <u>                    </u>	3 <u>                    </u>	4 <u>                    </u>

☒ See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bill Frazier/Beth Scripps  
organization Frazier Associates date February 22, 2007  
street & number 213 N. Augusta St. telephone 540-886-6230  
city or town Staunton state VA zip code 24401

**Additional Documentation** – *additional photographs, maps, and documents*

Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

**Maps** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs** Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Joan and David Berenson  
street & number 879 Middle River Road telephone 540-885-8308  
city or town Staunton state VA zip code 24401

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Mount Pleasant  
Augusta County, Virginia**

**Section** 7 **Page** 1

=====

*(text has been updated to reflect new research)*

**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION**

Mount Pleasant is a mid-eighteenth-century Shenandoah Valley limestone farmhouse located on Route 732 in the northwest section of Augusta County near the village of Spring Hill. The original house has a two-story, hall-parlor plan with a raised basement containing the original kitchen. In the mid-nineteenth century, a major remodeling resulted in a new rear ell addition, much new woodwork in the major rooms, a new exterior portico entrance, new windows, and applied stucco over the stone exterior walls. Except for the addition of two bathrooms and updating the rear ell with a new kitchen and enclosed porch, the house retains much of its nineteenth-century appearance. The current owners have removed the stucco that remained from the earlier remodeling.

The nominated property consists of twenty resources. The main house is the single contributing building included with the period of significance of 1760-1850. The secondary resources are all non-contributing built in the late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and include fourteen buildings, one site, and four structures. The fourteen non-contributing buildings include: the barn, granary, wood shed, chicken house, springhouse, machinery shed, concrete block dairy, frame corn crib, frame loafing shed, a metal barn, a metal farrowing house, a cattle feeding station, and cattle feeding and loading station. The four non-contributing structures include three silos and a gazebo. The ruin of the old mill is the only site on the property, and it is non-contributing.

**ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS**

Mount Pleasant Farm is sited on a knoll overlooking the Middle River in Augusta County on Route 732 several miles southwest of the village of Spring Hill. Moffett Creek cuts through this 316-acre tract and bisects the fourteen outbuildings that are located over the hill behind the main house to the north and east. There are a few shrubs and trees near the house, and most of the immediately surrounding land is hilly and contains outcroppings of limestone.

This Shenandoah Valley limestone farmhouse, with its hall/parlor plan in the front portion, dates from the mid-eighteenth century. The plan is similar to the neighboring Eugene Crosby House and varies from the three-room, central passage plan found in many of the later limestone farmhouses of southern Augusta County. Its rear stone wing and much of its interior woodwork date from the mid-nineteenth century. The main block is two stories with a raised basement, end chimneys, and a gable roof. A one-story entrance portico shelters the entrance, and a screened porch is attached to the east elevation, which was enlarged and enclosed by the current owners.

The walls of the house are constructed of coursed limestone rubble with limestone quoins at the corners, and its foundation is coursed limestone rubble with a high plain water table. There are flat jack arches over the raised basement windows and door and segmental arches over the windows on the first level.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Mount Pleasant  
Augusta County, Virginia**

**Section 7 Page 2**

=====

The exterior walls were covered with unpainted stucco applied in the mid-nineteenth century. By the late-twentieth century, several stucco sections had deteriorated and fallen from the building while other areas had been patched with Portland cement. The current owners subsequently removed all of the stucco, thus uncovering the original stone construction of the dwelling. In the process, they uncovered the original narrow segmental arches sized for the original nine-over-nine or nine-over-six windows. These arches had been filled-in with bricks in order to install the new windows at the time of the mid-nineteenth-century remodeling.

Four Tuscan columns with two pilasters support the one-story, single-bay, entrance portico. The entablature consists of a simple architrave, and undecorated frieze, and a plain cornice. A pediment with an unadorned tympanum fronts the gable roof of the portico. Its ceiling is constructed of wooden boards in an elliptical arch shape to clear the door surround which is composed of architrave trim and contains a six-paneled door within a recessed paneled opening. The two facing wooden benches take the place of any railing or balustrade on the sides of the portico. The portico dates from the mid-nineteenth-century remodeling as evidenced by the fact that it partially covers an original basement window and, most likely, replaced a smaller original entrance porch. The stone steps are a twentieth-century change to the portico. The frame side porch is raised and was enclosed and enlarged by the current owners.

The house has six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash windows surrounded with architrave trim that is believed to date to the mid-nineteenth-century remodeling. Louvered shutters are attached with wrought-iron strap hinges and pintles. There are four basement casement windows below the water table, and in each gable end is a small attic fixed window with plain trim and a four-light sash. The rear addition has nine-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash windows on the main level and six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash on the second floor.

The roof of the original structure, as well as the rear addition, are gable shapes with a standing-seam copper covering. Hewn common rafters are pinned together with trunnels. The original roof material of the main structure was wood shingles, and a section of those shingles remains on the part of the original roof that has been covered by the intersecting roof of the rear addition. There is a simple box cornice that has a return on the end of each gable, but it appears that this gable end section possibly was removed to facilitate the application of stucco at an earlier date. The weathered structural beams remain embedded in the stonework where the former cornice returns were attached.

The original hall/parlor plan connects to the rear addition, which is currently being used as the kitchen. The plan of the second level is also a "T" shape reflecting the rear addition, which does not connect through to the original house but, instead, has its own winding staircase leading to a bedchamber. The original section of the house has two bedchambers. The remaining space of this floor is taken up by the open staircase as well as the hall that leads to an enclosed staircase to the attic. The attic space is one large room over the original part of the house with a finished chamber in the northeast corner. There is a shallow crawl space under the roof of the addition.

The basement of the original house has three rooms with an exterior entrance on the northeast elevation, and the rear addition has one room with an exterior entrance on the northwest elevation and an enclosed winding staircase to the main level. The plan of the original section and the addition thus form a "T" shape. The largest of the original rooms was the first kitchen and contains a large fireplace suitable for cooking. Next to this fireplace is a large recessed opening supported by a segmental arch in the stone wall. The remaining two rooms in the original

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Mount Pleasant  
Augusta County, Virginia**

**Section** 7 **Page** 3

section were most likely used for storage, as much shelving remains in one of them. The room of the addition has a fireplace in its end wall, as well as chair rail and a wooden floor, suggesting that perhaps it was used for dining at some point in the house's history.

The main staircase along the back wall of the parlor is an open-string stair with ornamental brackets and simple rectangular balusters. The simple newel is turned and the handrail is walnut. The stairs to the attic and to the basement are winding and are enclosed with beaded boards.

The floors have four-to-six-inch pine boards in both the original section and the addition, and the attic has four-to-twelve-inch pine boards, the widest flooring in the house. The original basement kitchen now has a concrete slab floor, but the two storerooms retain their original dirt floors. The floor of the rear basement wing has three- to-six-inch pine boards, some with water damage.

The main floor has plaster walls with recent plaster ceilings that are finished in a swirled pattern. The addition retains its original plaster walls and ceiling. The second floor has plaster walls, but the ceiling has been covered with another coat of plaster. The walls of the original basement kitchen are stone that has been whitewashed. Many of the interior doors have an unusual five flat panel design with two vertical panels at the bottom of the door and three horizontal panels above. Most of the doors throughout the house retain their original hardware, which are rim locks with small brass knobs. The basement batten doors have hand wrought strap or "H" hinges.

All of the door and window trim on the first floor is symmetrically molded with corner blocks, and there is beaded chair rail with a beaded cap throughout these rooms. The design of the mantel in the main parlor is ornate and complex. There are double engaged Tuscan colonnettes with decorative raised end blocks and a decorative frieze. The mantel shelf projects above the end blocks and rests on a cornice. Next to the fireplace is a double built-in press with doors that consist of six flat panels--two lower vertical ones and four horizontal above. The mantel in the second room on the main floor is similar in design to the one in the main parlor. It is composed of double engaged fluted Tuscan colonnettes supporting decorative end blocks and frieze. The mantel shelf projects above the end blocks and rests on a cornice.

There is symmetrically molded trim with corner blocks around most openings on the second floor although the corner blocks are plain, whereas the ones on the first floor have a bull's eye motif. There is beaded chair rail throughout this floor and a plain chair rail up the stairs on the back wall. The woodwork in the main bedchamber has a varnished finish. The mantel in this room has a rectangular opening framed by pilasters. The end blocks and frieze have plain recessed panels. The mantel shelf has projecting ends and cavetto as well as cyma recta moldings in the cornice. The smaller bedchamber does not have a fireplace but does have a built-in double press with two five-panel doors similar to other doors throughout the house.

On the main floor of the addition there is beaded chair rail and baseboards throughout, as well as symmetrical moldings and cornerblocks around the openings. Pilasters with recessed decorative panels frame the rectangular opening of the fireplace. The frieze is undecorated except for two recessed panels. The mantel shelf has projecting ends and is supported by a cornice that includes echinus and cavetto moldings. There is a pair of matching

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Mount Pleasant  
Augusta County, Virginia**

**Section** 7 **Page** 4

cupboards on each side of the mantel that retain their original graining. The chair rail and baseboard of the second-floor addition are the same as on the first floor, but framing around the windows and cupboards is architrave trim. The second-floor mantel is quite similar to the one on the main floor with pilasters, end blocks, and two panels in the frieze. The cupboards retain their fine mahogany graining. The basement addition, which at one time most likely served as a dining room, has a chair rail as seen in the rest of the wing. It also has a fiberboard wainscoting that is probably a later addition. There is architrave trim around the windows, doors, and cupboards.

The rectangular stone fireplace has a simple mantel shelf that is supported by two plain consoles. There is a cupboard on the left side of the fireplace with perforated flower motif tin inserts used for ventilation.

There are numerous outbuildings built in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries that are bisected by Moffett Creek, which runs behind the barn. The gable-roofed barn with weatherboard siding was built in several sections. The right side (approximately 36 feet long by 27 feet wide) is the oldest part with its hewn posts and beams that are of mortise-and-tenon construction. It rests on a coursed rubble limestone foundation and has batten doors with strap hinges and probably dates from mid- to late eighteenth century. The newer section is of heavy frame construction and has a concrete foundation. Both of these sections have lofts and are separated by a 12-foot central section with end double doors that allow loading into the lofts. There is a small one-story addition to the new section of the barn that has a shed roof and a stone rubble foundation. The entire barn has a metal roof as well as a 15-foot shed roof overhang that runs the length of the structure.

The chicken house is of late-nineteenth-century frame construction with weatherboards, a shed roof, and is approximately 15 feet wide by 12 feet long. The wood shed located next to the house is of frame construction with its vertical-board siding and corrugated metal gable roof and dates from the early to mid-twentieth century. A late-twentieth-century frame gazebo stands between the house and wood shed. The springhouse is built into the side of a hill behind and below the house. It is constructed of poured concrete side walls and a corrugated metal gable roof. The granary is composed of a central bay with a gable roof and weatherboards, while the flanking side bays are covered with vertical boards and shed roofs. It dates from the early twentieth century, as does a neighboring four-bay machinery shed that is in poor condition.

The remaining outbuildings, located on the other side of Moffett's Creek, date from the mid-twentieth century, and are constructed of frame, poured concrete, cinderblock, or metal sheathing. They consist of a silo and cattle feeding station; a corn crib; a loafing shed; a large corrugated metal barn; a one-story cinderblock shop; and a double silo with a cattle loading station. A limestone chimney ruin located next to the silos is all that remains of an earlier mill. There are no traces of the millrace that ran northeast from Moffett Creek to the mill.



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Mount Pleasant  
Augusta County, Virginia**

**Section** 8 **Page** 5

=====

*(text has been updated to reflect new research)*

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Mount Pleasant is significant architecturally as a representative example of a mid-eighteenth-century Shenandoah Valley limestone farmhouse. The approximate 316-acre farm located in the northwest section of Augusta County contains numerous outbuildings ranging in date from the mid-nineteenth century to the 1960s. The original house has a two-story, hall-parlor plan with an added rear ell dating to the mid-nineteenth century. This hall-parlor plan is similar to the neighboring Eugene Crosby House (VDHR Survey No. 007-1008) and reflects the early date of the dwelling. There are elaborate Federal mantels in the major rooms, and all of the woodwork dating from the mid-nineteenth-century remodeling remains intact.

The property is also significant because of its association with Colonel George Moffett, the son of the original land grantee John Moffett and, most likely, the builder of the house. He was also one of Augusta County's most distinguished citizens and was very active in a variety of governmental affairs and in several battles in the Revolutionary War. A significant event associated with the property occurred in June of 1781 when members of the Virginia General Assembly took refuge in the house as they fled from the British Colonel B. Tarleton, who was pursuing them from Richmond. The assembly members left Charlottesville upon hearing of the British pursuit and retreated to Staunton's Trinity Church to continue their meetings. When they discovered that they were still being pursued, they hurriedly left the church and proceeded to Mount Pleasant.<sup>1</sup>

**CRITERIA A, B, AND C**

The property is nominated under National Register Criterion A for its military event association in 1781; Criterion B as a residence for Colonel George Moffett and his political/governmental connections; and Criterion C for its exceptionally intact architecture from its construction in 1760 to its remodeling in 1850.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Mount Pleasant is situated on a 1740 colonial land patent from George II to John Moffett. The original parcel consisted of 400 acres, bearing a patent date of 10 June 1740, located on both sides of the Middle River and known by 1740 as Moffett's Bottom as specifically named in the colonial patent. A stone house may have existed on this land as early as 1749, according to the 1994 research of a local archivist (Katherine Bushman - deceased) familiar with Augusta County Court Order Books from the mid-eighteenth century. This research documentation was based on original probate documents dated 28 March 1754 in settlement of the estate of John Moffett. Grants to George Moffett (John's son) in 1761 and 1769 continued the family's ownership of what had by then grown to a 604-acre parcel associated with Mount Pleasant. (see attached map "Figure 1") The 1769 grant was inclusive of: the twenty-seven-acre 1761 grant to George Moffett based on his father's 1747 survey and which labeled the land as on Moffett's Creek; "four-hundred acres part thereof being formerly granted to John Moffett by patent bearing the tenth day of June 1740; one hundred acres other part thereof was also formerly granted to the said John Moffett by patent bearing date the 20 august 1747 – the right title whereof is since become vested in said George Moffett; and seventy-seven previously ungranted acres."<sup>2</sup>

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Mount Pleasant  
Augusta County, Virginia**

Section 8 Page 6

=====

**Colonel George Moffett**

Colonel George Moffett was born in Augusta County in 1735, the son of Mary Christian and John Moffett. He was a prominent local citizen and a Revolutionary War hero. In 1763 he was appointed as a new commissioner in Augusta County, and four years later he was appointed vice surveyor of highways in the county. By 1770 he was on a list of qualified vestrymen in the local Augusta church. In 1773 he was appointed as a local justice, a position that he would be reappointed to several times. On January 17, 1774, he received a commission from Lord Dunmore; and that same year, his company spent six weeks at Clover Lick Fort and then helped build Fort Warwick in what is now West Virginia. His company also fought Indians at Kerr Creek in Alleghany County. Several members of his company were injured at the battle of Point Pleasant in 1774. George Moffett continued to rise in command during the Revolution and became a captain in March of 1776, and two years later he qualified as a major.

In 1778 Colonel Moffett was qualified as a Commissioner of the Peace and on 16 June 1778, he became the Lieutenant of the County. He became the sheriff of Augusta County in November of 1779, and a year later he was appointed the local commissioner of tax. In October of 1780, Colonel Moffett's militia fought at the Battle of King's Mountain in North Carolina, one of the most spectacular battles in which the Virginia Militia played a part. Colonel William Campbell combined forces of ten companies of Virginia Militia with the North Carolina Militia and fought and defeated Patrick Ferguson's Provincial Rangers who were loyalists to the Crown.

Colonel Moffett's regiment then fought under Major General Nathaniel Greene at the Battle of Cowpens on 17 January 1781, where British General Tarleton suffered his first setback. Guilford Court House in North Carolina was the next encounter in which Colonel Moffett's regiment under General Greene engaged the British. In this battle on 15 March 1781, General Cornwallis retained possession of the battlefield and the Virginia Militia was forced to withdraw.

Commemorating the significant event associated with the property is a plaque erected by the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1925 describing the time when members of the Virginia General Assembly took refuge in the house in June 1781, when they fled from the British Colonel B. Tarleton who was pursuing them from Richmond. A letter from Charles A. Stuart to Lyman C. Draper, dated 30 September 1845, recounts this event as Mr. Stuart heard it from the then late Colonel Alexander Robertson "a familiar acquaintance and friend and neighbor of Colonel and Mrs. Moffett" and includes the statement that "some of the assembly were especially obnoxious to the enemy and particularly P. Henry. He knew Col. Moffett whose residence was abt [sic] 8 miles NW of Staunton, so they went there..." Genealogical records reflect the relation by marriage of the Moffett and Henry families. (see attached transcription)

After the Revolutionary War, Colonel Moffett returned to Augusta County where he was reappointed in 1783 as County Lieutenant. This was the most prominent position in a county as noted in "A Guide to Virginia Military Organizations in the American Revolution, 1774-1787" that states: "In colonial Virginia the lord lieutenant had his counterpart in the county lieutenant, usually a man of education and wealth like Colonel William Byrd. Most county

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Mount Pleasant  
Augusta County, Virginia**

**Section 8 Page 7**

General Assembly. The county lieutenant outranked all other militia officers although he nominally held only the rank of colonel.” Indians remained a problem in Augusta County after the Revolutionary War, and in May of 1783, Governor Benjamin Harrison wrote Colonel Moffett a letter in which he expresses regret about this issue and recommends that Moffett use the militia to protect local citizens.

In 1782 George Moffett was appointed again as a justice, and it appears that he continued serving in that position until at least 1790. Colonel Moffett also was interested in education and became one of the first trustees of Liberty Hall (Washington College). This institution is now known as Washington and Lee University and is located in Lexington, Virginia.

On 18 August 1789, George Moffett took the oath of loyalty required by Congress pursuant to Article VI of the Constitution of the United States.

After the Revolutionary War, Colonel Moffett had time to pursue his responsibilities to his farm. Tax records of 1782-1787 reveal that he had sixteen slaves, a large number for the frontier of Augusta County. His landholdings in this region of the county were also large; in 1792 he had an inclusive survey that reflected ownership of over 2,000 acres. He also had extensive holdings in Kentucky of several thousand acres, as listed in his will of 1811, and left varying amounts of acreage as well as cash payments of up to one thousand dollars to each of his nine children or their heirs. Colonel George Moffett died in 1811. His will referenced his prior inclusive survey of “more than a thousand acres including where I now live and the place I bought of Archers executors be divided by a line.” Moffett’s will instructed his executors to sell the Archer and other acquired land and divide the remaining land into shares. The eastern portion of this division was left to his son George, while the western and ‘stone house’ portions were left to his son, William. According to George’s will, the land would revert to his son, George, if William died without heirs, as indeed happened (Augusta County Will Book 11, page 34 as transcribed by Diana Powell, attached). Seven of his children were still living at his death, and he provided generously to all of them as noted in the will. Augusta County Order Books record that throughout the years he also was appointed guardian to various orphans who came under his care.

**Subsequent Owners**

George Moffett, Jr., sold his undivided half interest in Mount Pleasant “plantation” to John McCue and Andrew Gatewood. The heirs of George’s brother James, who had inherited the other half interest, joined in the sale of the farm to Bailey Dunlap with both of these transactions occurring in 1826. The property remained in the Dunlap family until 1900. It was during this ownership that the house was expanded and remodeled. Between 1850 and 1851, the sum added for buildings in the land tax records rose from \$1,000 to \$1,800. It would appear that this may have been the year in which the large rear wing was added to the house, the front porch installed, the stucco added and the interior of the entire house remodeled with new woodwork, windows, and doors.

The result of the renovations is an interior that has fine details and has remained virtually intact for the past one hundred and fifty years. While the hall/parlor plan is typical for an early Augusta County stone house, the later

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Mount Pleasant  
Augusta County, Virginia**

**Section 8 Page 8**

=====

After the Dunlap family ownership, Mount Pleasant was sold to George Hiner and remained in that family until 1960 when it was purchased by George Ware. The present owner, Joan Berenson, bought the farm in 1986. Mount Pleasant Farm is a testamentary bequest to an existing IRS approved 501C3 foundation with funding to maintain its historical status and prevent development. As long as a member of the Berenson family sits on the foundation board, it may partner with a public charitable not-for-profit foundation to achieve its goals.

**Architectural Significance**

George Moffett most likely built Mount Pleasant after inheriting the property from his father John Moffett's estate in 1754. The site of the house occupies the only high ground included in John Moffett's 1740 colonial land patent, land that was already known as Moffett's Bottom when John received the patent in 1740. Its promontory location above Moffett's Creek would have aided this early Augusta County family in defense against Indian attack and provided water necessary for daily activities without need for a well.

A stone house is referred to in court documents from 1749 when George sued his stepfather for rent associated with a stone house on the property. Modern cultivation of surrounding bottomland included in that patent has failed to yield evidence of any alternate building site on the original land patent acreage. It is, therefore, possible that the current house may have been built on the stone raised basement foundation constructed for his father's earlier dwelling. Artifacts found in the basement, including spirit bottles that by shape can be dated to between 1710 and 1740; and a coin in circulation between 1733 and 1744 that was found in the yard, within ten feet of the house, further substantiate a possible dwelling in this location prior to George Moffett's ownership.

John Moffett is reputed to have been the stonemason for Augusta Stone Church (VDHR #007-004) built in 1749.<sup>3</sup> Although Mount Pleasant employs a number of the same elements found in the design of this simple church, including the use of a water table and quoins, the overall design of Mount Pleasant displays a higher level of knowledge of Georgian architectural design and stonework. Close examination of the segmental arches on the basement level and first floor level may demonstrate the possible evolution of the house. On the facade, the roughly shaped stones of the basement arch contrast with the more regularly shaped stone "bricks" above.

As a high-ranking colonial official who also happened to be the well-traveled son of a stonemason, George Moffett would have built his house in the latest style to convey his wealth and position. The Georgian sophistication of Mount Pleasant, uncommon on Virginia's frontier in the mid-eighteenth century, may be the result of George Moffett's travels, both locally to houses such as the 1749 Fort Harrison (VDHR #206-001) and farther afield due to his military service and government positions. The original design and hall-parlor plan is still evident although Mount Pleasant received a Federal-style update after a change in ownership in 1826.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Mount Pleasant  
Augusta County, Virginia**

**Section 8, 9 Page 9**

=====

**Endnotes**

- <sup>1</sup> Transcription of Draper Letter, Sutro Archives, San Francisco (by Diana Powell)  
<sup>2</sup> Augusta County land and probate records, Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah (by Diana Powell)  
<sup>3</sup> Research of Lisa Moore, a Moffett family descendant.

Note: Additional research, transcription and mapping was conducted by Diana Powell, a Moffett family descendant, through research of primary source materials including Augusta County land and probate records on microfilm at the Family History Library located in Salt Lake City, Utah; Virginia grant and patent images at the Library of Virginia online; and letters from the Draper Manuscripts on microfilm at Sutro Library, San Francisco, California. Full documentation consisting of copies of the original documents and transcriptions are on file with the Mount Pleasant Foundation, located in Augusta County, as well as Ms. Powell who resides in Atherton, California.

**9. ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES**

*(These are additional resources supplied by the owner and not listed on the previous nomination)*

Culbertson, Charles. *Untitled and undated newspaper article.*

“Historic ‘Mount Pleasant’ Is Described in Article.” *Staunton News-Leader*, 18 December 1949.

Masson, Kathryn. *Historic Houses of Virginia*. “Mount Pleasant.” New York: Rizzoli. 2006

Nutt, Joe. “Mount Pleasant.” Shenandoah Sketches. *Undated, unattributed newspaper article*

Richmond Area Speleological Society. *Mount Pleasant Cave Map*. Richmond, VA: Richmond Area Speleological Society, 19 March 1989.

Shulman, Terry. “Mount Pleasant holds unique spot in Augusta County history.” *The News Leader*, September 27, 2003.

Sorrells, Nancy. “Augusta County Marker Remembers Revolutionary History.” *The News Leader*, Staunton, VA. *undated*

White, Daphne. “Stopped In Its Tracks.” *The Washington Post*, 1991.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Mount Pleasant  
Augusta County, Virginia**

**Section 10 Page 10**

---

**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

The boundary remains the same as originally listed in 1989 with 316.21 acres; the UTM points are provided again below, as is a description. A new detailed property map is provided, as well as a copy of the original Quad mapping.

**UTM References**

	<b>Zone</b>	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>
<b>A</b>	17	667420	4235420
<b>B</b>	17	667930	4234740
<b>C</b>	17	667680	4233640
<b>D</b>	17	666380	4233860
<b>E</b>	17	666230	4234090
<b>F</b>	17	666410	4234710

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary includes the entire present 316.21 acres that comprise Mount Pleasant Farm situated in North River District, Augusta County, Virginia on State Highway Route 732 and on Middle River as recorded on Deedbook 873/page 288. This property is a residue of a tract containing 458.50 acres, more or less, acquired by George M. Ware and Inez N. Ware by deed dated August 25, 1960, of record in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Augusta County in Deedbook 457/page 210 after deducting 119 acres conveyed to A. T. Weller and Barbara R. Weller by deed dated July 18, 1972 in Deedbook 593/page 182 and 23.285 acres conveyed to Howard L. Dunsmore and Nancy F. Dunsmore by deed dated December 29, 1982 in the Deedbook 787/page 418. The nominated boundaries are noted as TM35-65 in the electronic GIS files of Augusta County.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes the farmhouse, outbuildings, fields, and wooded hillsides that overlook and have historically been part of Mount Pleasant Farm. The farm borders both sides of Route 732 and the entire present tract is nominated to maintain the historic integrity of the complex and the view the Middle River.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Mount Pleasant  
Augusta County, Virginia**

Section PHOTO LIST Page 11

---

The following information is common to all photographs:

PROPERTY: Mount Pleasant Farm (Update)

LOCATION: Augusta County, VA

DHR FILE NO: 007-0024

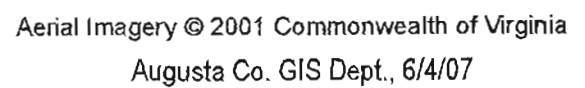
PHOTOGRAPHER: Beth Scripps

DATE: Spring/Summer 2007

ELECTRONIC IMAGES HOUSED: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

PHOTO 1 of 15	View of window on south elevation to west of door showing brick infill under stone segmental arch
PHOTO 2 of 15	View looking southwest on Middle River Road showing elevation of house site
PHOTO 3 of 15	View looking northeast from rear of house showing elevation of house site
PHOTO 4 of 15	Front elevation looking southwest
PHOTO 5 of 15	South (side) elevation looking northeast
PHOTO 6 of 15	West (rear) elevation from below looking southeast
PHOTO 7 of 15	North (side) elevation looking southwest
PHOTO 8 of 15	Interior view from front door looking into mid-nineteenth century addition
PHOTO 9 of 15	Main parlor mantel and built-in double press
PHOTO 10 of 15	Door between main parlor and second room on first level
PHOTO 11 of 15	Door connecting from original house to wing
PHOTO 12 of 15	Upstairs room in original section of house
PHOTO 13 of 15	Door in attic room that retains original trim, hinges and paint
PHOTO 14 of 15	Pierced metal cupboard door flanking fireplace in basement of wing
PHOTO 15 of 15	Basement fireplace on north wall of original house

---





MT PLEASANT FARM  
AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA

UTM REFERENCES

A/17/667420/4235420

38°15'  
79°07'30"

(SEE STAUNTON  
U.S.G.S. MAP

FOR OTHER

UTM POINTS)

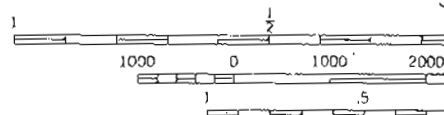
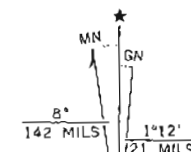
(CHURCHVILLE)  
5160 11 NW

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1965. Field checked 1967

Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on  
Virginia meridional datum north of 36°



CONTOUR

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH  
DIVISION OF MINES  
JAMES L. CALVER

5160 (PARN)

79°07'30"  
38°15'

665000 M.E.

MT PLEASANT FARM  
AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA

UTM REFERENCES

B/17/667930/4234740

C/17/667680/4233640

D/17/666380/4232860

E/17/666230/4234090

F/17/666410/4234710

(SEE PARNASSUS  
U.S.G.S. MAP FOR  
OTHER UTM POINT)

